

Belief, Faith, Compassion and a Passionate Plea (Slide 1)

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

I don't know how anything could be more clearer than what Jesus said in our reading!!

In His time on earth, Jesus performed several miracles. There were several reasons behind the Miracles. Here are a few:

(Slide 2)

To create Believers and produce Faith

To show that He has Authority on Earth to Forgive Sin

Because of His Compassion

Because of Faith

The Apostle John, in the close of his Gospel account, speaks directly to anyone who would be a hearer or who would read his account why Jesus performed miracles and other humanitarian and eternal works:

John 20:30-31 (Slide 3)

30 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Just prior to this Jesus says something to Thomas that is important and relevant to us:

John 20:27-29 (Slide 4)

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord

and my God!" (Slide 5) 29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

The manner in which He delayed going to Lazurus to raise Him from his sleep, that is; the dead, was so that His disciples would believe.

John 11:14b-15 (Slide 6)

"Lazarus is dead, 15 and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him."

Jesus performed Miracles to prove His Authority to forgive Sin!

Matthew 9:2-6 (Slide 7)

2 And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven." 3 And some of the scribes said to themselves, "This fellow blasphemes." 4 And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, (Slide 8) "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts? 5 Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'? 6 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home."

Jesus shows in this passage His authority and ability to forgive sin and what we need to realize is that sin stands in the way of healing. Without Him we cannot be healed.

Because man has a sin sickness, it should therefore be that His church's passionate plea is to come to believe in Him through obedient faith and be healed from sin.

Jesus performed Miracles because of His Compassion!

Mark 1:40-42 (Slide 9)

40 And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." 41

Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." 42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

(Slide 10)

1st, notice that the leper made a passionate plea through believing that Jesus could heal him. **"Beseeching"** is the same as *urgent*, that is; *urgently*, or *fervently*. Falling on his knees is a demonstration of his urgent need-desire. Jesus responded with compassion.

What we 2nd notice in this scripture is that Jesus was **"Moved with compassion."**

This indicates a great depth of *sympathy* and *sorrow* for one who is suffering and a passionate sense of helping someone in need!

Compassion comes from a Greek word that means to *"suffer with."* Jesus felt within Himself the suffering of the leper.

Matthew 14:14 (Slide 11)

14 When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

Mark 6:34

When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.

So *teaching* is *showing compassion* and it is taught with *passion* just as did Noah before the flood and Jonah, despite his feelings for those of Nineveh, pronouncing 40 days until they would be overthrown if they didn't repent. It is done as a *passionate plea* so that those hearing will be saved!

With this in mind and for us today we should equate the phrase ***“Unless a man be born again”*** as a *passionate plea!*

In turn we teach!!!

Jesus performed Miracles because of faith!

Luke 7:2-10 (Slide 12)

2 And a centurion’s slave, who was highly regarded by him, was sick and about to die. 3 When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders asking Him to come and save the life of his slave. 4 When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored Him, saying, (Slide 13) “He is worthy for You to grant this to him; 5 for he loves our nation and it was he who built us our synagogue.” 6 Now Jesus started on His way with them; and when He was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to Him, (Slide 14) “Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof; 7 for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 For I also am a man placed under authority, (Slide 15) with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, ‘Go!’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come!’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this!’ and he does it.” 9 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, (Slide 16) “I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith.” 10 When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

There is a lot that could be said about this passage. But, I want to point out two important points.

Here is a man who is humble despite his great authority and power. A gentile and Roman soldier. He is a man that had compassion on the Jews and helped them. Perhaps one who was ridiculed by his countryman. Yet, a man with power who is powerless without Jesus!

He hears about Jesus. The Bible doesn't say that he met Him nor witnessed any of His miracles. However, hearing about Jesus produced faith!!

The mission of the church is to proclaim, with a passionate plea to the lost, who Jesus is now and was on earth and what He accomplished on the cross. Teaching Jesus in a way with compassion so that people will believe and have an active faith by submitting their lives to Him in baptism.

I am convinced this is done in a variety of ways with the same Gospel message Jesus commissioned His apostles to present!! May we hear the passionate and most often silent plea of those who don't realize it or are not persuaded for whatever reason, that they need Christ Jesus!!

Invitation

Today the plea goes out, hear the Gospel call!! Put on Christ Jesus through baptism and be washed clean added to the Lord's church by Jesus Himself.

If you have been baptized but have faced challenges that have made your way crooked, may we pray for you and with you to restore that straight yet narrow path back into the fold.

Until the Lord comes: make your wish known before He returns.

Reading

Matthew 28:16-20

16 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped *Him*; but some were doubtful. 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the

name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

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